

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 5, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicants have addressed each of the issues raised in the Office Action by canceling claim 1, adding new claims, and submitting the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been canceled. New claims 2 – 20 have been added and are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chansky et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,020,825, which discloses a lighting device comprising a lighting element, a communication unit, and a processor. Claim 1 has been canceled. Applicant has entered new independent claims 2, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 18, as well as dependent claims therefrom.

New claim 2 discloses a multifunctional device that has a platform that bears a lighting element having a lighting function and a non-lighting function, and a processor for controlling the lighting element to provide the lighting function and the non-lighting function. The processor generates a pulse-width-modulated signal to control the lighting function. Nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests this combination of elements. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 distinguishes over the prior art of record. Claims 3-12 depend from claim 2 and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons.

New independent claim 13 discloses a method having steps of providing a device that has elements similar to those described in connection with claim 2, namely, a platform with a lighting element having a lighting function and a non-lighting function. The method further includes providing a processor and generating a pulse-width-modulated signal to control the lighting function. Nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests this combination of steps. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13, and claim 14, which depends from claim 13, are in allowable condition.

New independent claim 15 discloses a multifunctional device that includes a platform, a first element with a lighting function, a second element with a non-lighting function, and a processor. The processor is recited to generate a pulse-width-modulated signal to control the

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lighting function, wherein the lighting function is provided by LEDs, and wherein the period of the pulse-width-modulated signal is controlled using a duty cycle based on logic of exclusive or to provide the non-lighting function without visible effect on the lighting function. Nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests this combination of elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is in allowable condition.

New independent claim 16 discloses a method of providing multiple functions with a lighting device. The method includes providing a lighting element and a non-lighting element on a platform and providing a processor for controlling the elements, wherein the processor generates a pulse-width-modulated signal to control the lighting function. Nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests this combination of elements. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is patentable.

New independent claim 17 discloses a multifunctional device with three elements on a platform, including a lighting element and two non-lighting elements, together with a processor for controlling the elements. Nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests a third non-lighting element. Accordingly it is submitted that claim 17 is in allowable condition.

New independent claim 18 discloses a method of providing a multifunctional device with three elements, a lighting element and two non-lighting elements, together with providing at least one processor for controlling the first, second and third elements. As with claim 17, nothing in Chansky et al. shows, teaches or suggests the provision of a third non-lighting element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18, and claims 19 and 20, which depend from claim 18, are in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representatives at the telephone number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee

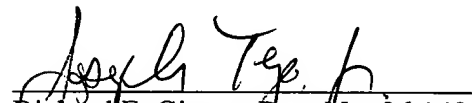
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occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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